The Modernization of China: a Historical Perspective

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MODERNIZATION

- Modernization is a process by which societies move from rural, agrarian society base to urban, industrial structures of living through application of science, technology and rational modes of thought.

- primitive productivity-agricultural productivity- industrial productivity.
Traditional Chinese Society

- most enduring
- one of the most creative and productive.
“Four Great Inventions”:
- printing,
- paper,
- the magnetic compass,
- gunpowder.
China’s Imperial Dynasties:

- **Xia** 2011-1600 B.C.
- **Shang** 1600-1027 B.C.
- **Zhou** 1027-211 B.C.  Confucius 511-479 B.C.
- **Qin** 221-206 B.C.  China unified, the Great Wall constructed
- **Han** 202 B.C.-220 A.D. (Rome empire) paper invented **Hanwudi**
- **Three Kingdoms** A.D. 220-280 period of disunity
- **Eight Dynasties** A.D. 265-289
- Sui A.D.589-618 united again
- Tang A.D.618-907 Tangtaizong
- Five Dynasties A.D.907-960 period pf disunity
- Qidan A.D. 936-1122 rule northern China
- Jin A.D. 1115-1234
- Song A.D.960-1279 rule southern China
- Yuan A.D. 1279-1368 rule by the Mongolia
- Ming A.D. 1368-1644 return to rule by Chinese
- Qing A.D.1644-1911 Manchu rulers Kangxi
- Republic A.D. 1912-1949
- People’s Republic 1949-
Opium War, 1840
A young man was sucking opium
Lin Zexu
Opium War

Nanjing Treaty was signed on a British warship.
The Earliest Awakenings: Wei Yuan (1794-1857) and his *Treatise of the Sea Kingdoms* to learn from the especially strong techniques of the barbarians in order to control them.
self-strengthening: military modernization

- China encountered “the greatest change in its situation” in 3000 years.

Li Hongzhang (1823-1901)
The principal aim is to understand the enemy, to watch the frontiers and prevent future disasters. These are, however, superficial measures, falling short of the fundamentals. The Policy for the fundamental is to strengthen ourselves.

---- Prince Gong  January 1861
We have found that the way to govern the state lies in self-strengthening, and in the present time and circumstances, the most important matter regarding self-strengthening is to train troops, but the training of troops must be preceded by the manufacture of weapons.

---- The Foreign Ministry (Zongli Yamen) 1864
The Beiyang Navy (the North Sea Navy)

the first two ships, 1872
26 warships, 1880s

Dingyuan and Zhenyuan warships were “of superior quality by international standards”.
The Kaiping Coalmine

The 1st Railroad in China, 1881
The teenagers to the U.S.
The slogan of the self-strengthening movement was “Chinese learning for essential principles, western learning for practical application.”
The Hundred Days Reform of 1898: political modernization
“My country was not wakened from her 4000-year-long dream until she lost the War of 1895, had to cut Taiwan and pay a huge amount of indemnity.”

Liang Qichao
Kang Youwei
Japan defeated us not because its ministers, generals or soldiers were better than ours. It was because that country established various schools and institutes which developed technologies and capabilities greater than ours.

The way of the West’s being powerful and wealthy does not lie in its artillery or militarism but in its exploration for principles and its encouragement of studies.

--Kang Youwei
If China wants to stand independently among all nations of the world, she must change her calendar and costumes to follow the way of the West in all the institutions.

---- Hunan Daily, 1898
Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908)

Emperor Guangxu (1871-1908)
The six men of honour
Beijing University
New Deal in late Qing Dynasty
Sun Zhongshan

In 1894, he founded Revive China Society.
Wuchang uprising
Jiang Jieshi
Mao Zedong
1, October, 1949
the Soviet Model Modernization
Land reform

- the Agrarian Reform Law in 1950: the redistribution of holdings
- The collectivization of the countryside
The peasants work and eat together in higher Agricultural Producers’ Cooperatives
industrialization

- the government stressed large scale heavy industry at the expense of lighter consumer industry.

A Soviet Union expert was instructing Chinese workers
mistakes

- the Great Leap Forward in 1958
the Cultural Revolution 1966-1976
Reform and openness
Deng Xiaoping
Agricultural reform

- From 1978 to 1984, rural collectives were dismantled, and land were distributed to the households.
Industrial reform

- the state owned factories were allowed more management autonomy, such as in the areas of wages and investment. The managers gained the right of hiring and dismissal of labor.
- supported the establishment of privately owned companies.
special economic zones

Shenzhen
The problems China is facing

- corruption
- income disparity
- supply of resources
- environment pollution
Thanks all!